



September 2005

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Gillmor Washington Update

As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent Ohio's Fifth Congressional District in Washington, DC.

In order to keep the citizens of the Fifth District better informed and up to date on my activities in Washington, DC and back home in Ohio, I have published the September edition of my monthly newsletter. It is my goal to provide you with the information you need to stay informed on the issues important to Ohio. In this edition of my Monthly Update, I have focused on the important events that have taken place in the month of August and inform you of upcoming September events in the Fifth District. I hope that you will find this information beneficial. Please contact me should you have any questions or comments.

House approves \$62 billion in relief for hurricane victims

After initially passing \$10 billion in relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina, the House passed another \$52 billion this week. The bill includes \$50 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund and \$1.8 billion for the Department of Defense and the Army Corps of Engineers to repair damaged infrastructure.



Among the funds provided by Congress to FEMA are \$23.2 billion for individual and housing assistance and \$1.6 billion for 100,000 temporary trailers and \$7.65 billion for public assistance and other programs. Among the many programs and services which will be paid for from the \$52 billion are home repairs, medical and dental costs, replacement clothing and household items and replacement vehicles. Assistance to the municipalities will be used for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and repairs to road systems, bridges and water control facilities.

My offices have received many calls from giving residents wishing to volunteer or donate to relief efforts. There are many worthy organizations across the country which can use your generosity. An easy way to find approved charities and opportunities to volunteer is through the USA Freedom Corps at www.usafreedomcorps.gov. If you wish to assist in relief efforts, cash donations allow volunteer agencies such as the American

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Red Cross the flexibility to quickly help the victims of this catastrophe. As always, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this tragedy and their families as they begin rebuilding their lives.

Five more town meetings finish up August

Just as I had done to begin August, I conducted five more open meetings with constituents at the end of August. In Norwalk, Ottawa, Defiance, Upper Sandusky and Wauseon, I conducted my *Coffee with the Congressman* meetings in which all residents of the Fifth District were free to come with questions and concerns about the federal government.



Congressman Gillmor answers questions from the crowd gathered at his Defiance Coffee with the Congressman on topics ranging from the War in Iraq to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Naturally, given the most recent events in America, many of the questions at these meetings revolved around the response to Hurricane Katrina and the rising gas prices across the district. These meetings are a good opportunity for me to hear your concerns and find the answers for which you are looking.

There were many issues on the minds of those gathered during my meetings at the end of August. Among the issues which were brought up were international trade, the judiciary, the War in Iraq, gas prices and health care. Many of these concerns will be addressed by Congress in the coming months. In fact, the U.S. Senate has begun confirmation hearings on Judge John Roberts, President Bush's nominee to succeed William Rehnquist as Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition, the



Congressman Gillmor discusses federal legislation with constituents in Ottawa.

Energy and Commerce Committee, of which I am a member, recently held a hearing regarding the rapid spike in America's gas prices. The views expressed at these five meetings will be very important to me as I enter the coming weeks of Congressional action.

As you know, the Fifth District is not a densely populated area. Instead, we are a district composed of many small com-

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munities complete with the character and needs of a closely connected people. I have always felt this was a great benefit for me as your Representative because the residents of the Fifth District maintain a unity not often found outside our small communities.

Meetings such as those in Norwalk, Ottawa, Defiance, Upper Sandusky and Wauseon offer me a great deal of perspective on your concerns and desires for government. These meetings also allow me to gauge what effect legislation moving through Congress will have on our district. I look forward to future opportunities for discussion and continuing to bring your concerns with me to the House floor.

180th Fighter Wing deploys to Qatar

After not only surviving the most recent step in the Base Realignment and Closure process but receiving an additional three planes, some members of the 180th Fighter Wing were recently deployed for operations in Qatar. In the middle of August, more than two hundred airmen and women from the Toledo Air Guard Base deployed to Qatar to provide aerial support for military operations.



Congressman Gillmor speaks to the airmen and women gathered at the Toledo Airport prior to deploying to Qatar.

The squadron is expected to return sometime this fall and I was glad I could be at Toledo Express Airport for their sendoff on August 14th. By participating in these operations, the men and women of the 180th are continuing a long tradition of serving in overseas conflicts. The unit has been activated in World War II, the Korean War, Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.



I felt honored to thank the brave airmen and women who were deploying to the Middle East and to wish them a safe return home. While they are gone, I know that the families of these heroes will receive the care of Northwest Ohio and the concern of our communities. We wish them all a speedy return.

Congressman Gillmor is pictured thanking airmen and women from the 180th Fighter Wing for their service to our nation.

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19 district fire departments receive more than \$1.4 million

Once again, the Department of Homeland Security has been busy approving grant money from the Office of Domestic Preparedness. In the past month, 19 fire departments received a total of \$1,440,964 in grant monies provided by Congress.



Through the funds provided, our fire departments increase the effectiveness of fire fighting operations, fire fighter health and safety programs, new fire equipment, EMS programs and safety

programs. Specifically, departments will be able to purchase equipment, training, and fire station upgrades.

Across Ohio, first responders have benefited from the fire grant program through the Department of Homeland Security. This money was made available by Congress with the intention of providing increased security and safety in every community— from our largest to our smallest.

The fire departments which received awards in August and the beginning of September include:

Noble Township Fire Department	Defiance County	\$37,341
Auglaize Township Volunteer Fire Department	Defiance County	\$40,850
Townsend Township Volunteer Fire Department	Huron County	\$103,303
Tri-Community Joint Fire Department	Huron County	\$66,975
Mendon Union Fire Department	Mercer County	\$47,500
Grover Hill Volunteer Fire Department	Paulding County	\$36,932
Village of Oakwood	Paulding County	\$56,050
Payne Fire Department	Paulding County	\$19,874
Continental Fire Department	Putnam County	\$39,022
Kalida Volunteer Fire Department	Putnam County	\$84,256
Ballville Township Volunteer Fire Department	Sandusky County	\$72,770
Gibsonburg Fire Department	Sandusky County	\$83,838
Bettsville Fire Department	Seneca County	\$25,108
Edgerton Fire Department	Williams County	\$91,857
Lake Township Fire Department	Wood County	\$171,000
Rossford Fire Department	Wood County	\$95,000
Troy Township Fire Department	Wood County	\$78,046
Bowling Green Fire Department	Wood County	\$212,544
Washington Township Volunteer Fire Department	Wood County	\$78,698

These grant monies will improve the effectiveness of firefighters in each of these areas and benefit citizens across the Fifth District of Ohio. Firefighters play a critical role ensuring the safety of our communities and this money will help to deliver the resources necessary to excel in their mission.

For additional information on the Fire Grant program go to www.firegrantsupport.com.

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A stop at the Henry County Senior Citizens Center

On another stop of my August District Work Period, I was pleased to enjoy lunch and answer the questions of the members of the Henry County Senior Citizens Center. There were some questions on the past and future of Social Security and some on the new Medicare prescription drug plan to be implemented in January. However, I was impressed to receive a great deal of inquiries about America's oil dependence and the need for alternative energy sources.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, lowering energy prices and reducing our dependence on foreign oil is a matter close to my heart. I found it very telling that some of our most experienced and wisest citizens cared less about their own wellbeing and more about the future of our nation. These citizens brought forth well-informed arguments about the need to free ourselves from oil dependence and I could not agree with them more.



Congressman Gillmor discusses federal legislation at the Henry County Senior Center.

In any democracy, citizens are not only entitled but expected to question their elected leaders. This is a privilege and a right which we have earned



Congressman Gillmor responds to questions from senior citizens gathered in Napoleon.

through centuries of struggle towards a freedom unknown to any other. Having an impassioned discussion does not mean an angry discussion. Instead, those gathered in Henry County presented valid cases in which the federal government can assist its citizens and informed me about the issues closest to their hearts. I am grateful for the candor of those gathered in Henry County and the issues which were raised.

Looking for assistance with the federal government?

Contacting departments and agencies of the United States Government on behalf of constituents is one of my most important duties. Unfortunately, the size of our sixteen county district makes travel to my Defiance, Tiffin, or Norwalk offices prohibitive for many. In order to ensure that my

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staff is accessible to all my constituents, I have scheduled casework on-sites in Crawford and Seneca Counties as follows:

Wednesday, September 21st

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Bloomville Community Center
10 Beeghly Avenue

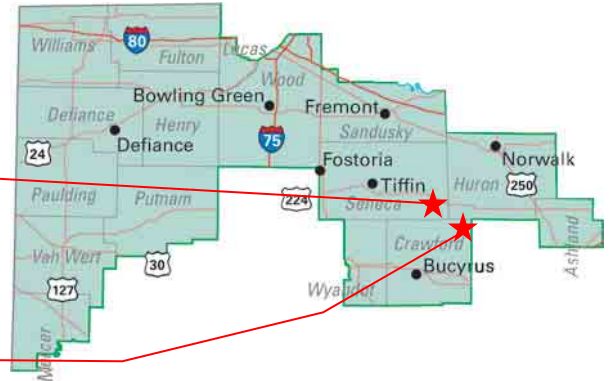
BLOOMVILLE

Wednesday, September 21st

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Council Chambers
119 East Mansfield Street

NEW WASHINGTON



If you are in the area, I encourage you to stop by and my staff will be happy to assist you with any problems you are having with the federal government. At these meetings, my staff can help you begin the process of resolving an issue on many different topics including retrieving a lost Social Security check, obtaining copies of military records, questions with Medicare billings, resolving a problem with your VA benefits, expediting a passport request and many more of your concerns.

Interested in attending a U.S. Service Academy?

As a Congressman, one of my most important and fulfilling responsibilities is to nominate young men and women from the Fifth District for admission to our nation's service academies. To help with questions about the academy nomination process, members of my staff will be in New Washington and Liberty Center on September 20th and 22nd.

The service academy information nights are a great opportunities for prospective service academy candidates to meet with academy representatives as well as members of my staff to learn about the academy nomination and selection process.

Representatives from the admissions offices of the U.S. Military, Naval, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine Academies have been invited to attend the information night. I would encourage all students in the Fifth District who are interested in an academy appointment to attend the meeting.

For more information on the academy nomination process, please contact Congressman Gillmor's Tiffin, Ohio office at (800) 541-6446 or visit the student section of his website at www.house.gov/gillmor.

Tuesday, September 20, 2005

7:00 p.m. -- 9:00 p.m.

*Buckeye Central High School
306 South Kibler Street
New Washington, Ohio 44854*

Thursday, September 22, 2005

7:00 p.m. -- 9:00 p.m.

*Liberty Center High School
103 West Young Street
Liberty Center, Ohio 43532*

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August picture gallery

Throughout the month of August, I traveled across the Fifth District attending dozens of events. Some of these events included seven town meetings in seven different counties, a Manufacturing Roundtable in Perrysburg, and the opening of a Hospital in Norwalk and a highway in Bucyrus. I hope you will enjoy the photo album of my travels across the Fifth District.

As Congress is once again in session, I offer some of the photos of my many visits throughout the district to you on my webpage at www.house.gov/gillmor. Here are some of the pictures of my more memorable events in the district...



Greeting patrons at the Fulton County Fair



Speaking with a constituent in Napoleon at the Henry County Senior Center



Speaking with members of the Bellevue Rotary



Presenting a proclamation to Charlie Duerk for his fifty years of service as a Boy Scout leader



Speaking to constituents in Defiance



Touring the Bowling Green Home Depot and meeting with staff.

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Contact me

If you have any suggestions on topics you would like to see addressed in my monthly updates, require any additional information, or would like to inform me of your views on matters concerning the federal government, please contact me anytime in Washington, D.C. or in any of my Ohio offices.

If you wish to forward your questions or concerns via U.S. mail, please address your correspondence to one of my Ohio offices as mail sent to the Longworth House Office Building in Washington is subject to a lengthy screening process and may not reach my office in a timely manner. You will find additional information on issues of federal concern on my website at <http://gillmor.house.gov>.